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SEYMOUR, CHARLES. *The Diplomatic Background of the War. 1870-1914.* Pp. xv, 311. Price, \$2.00. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1916.

The study of modern history has received from the present war a stimulus which must give it henceforth a more permanent position in the curriculum of universities and colleges. In the present volume Mr. Seymour enters a comparatively new field, occupied hitherto by a few excellent general histories, such as those of Phillips, Rose, Andrews, and Hazen, and by biographies and special treatises not generally accessible. Beginning with a study of Bismarck's creation of the Triple Alliance and of the Dual Alliance which counterbalanced it, the author passes to a discussion of the development of German world policy both in respect to its economic and its moral factors. This is followed by a consideration of British foreign policy, and of the diplomatic revolution by which Britain put aside her policy of opposition to France and Russia in favor of coöperation. The conflict of the two alliances is next described, and the closing chapters deal with the Balkan wars and the crisis of 1914. In addition to a brief bibliography arranged for each individual chapter the author gives frequent references in footnotes, though for the most part to secondary sources. It is scarcely necessary to say that there is still room for a more exhaustive work based upon original documentary evidence.

C. G. F.

TROTTER, W. *Instincts of the Herd in Peace and War.* Pp. 213. Price, \$1.25. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1916.

Many things indicate that man is essentially a gregarious animal. "1. He is intolerant and fearful of solitude, mental or physical. . . . 2. He is more sensitive to the voice of the herd than to any other influence. . . . 3. He is subject to the passions of the pack in his mob violence and the passions of the herds in his panics. . . . 4. He is remarkably susceptible to leadership. . . . 5. His relations with his fellows are dependent upon the recognition of him as a member of the herd."

Recognizing that this gregarious instinct is as powerful today as ever we may see that man can develop three types of society. He may imitate the "protective gregariousness of the sheep and the ox"; he may model his society after the "aggressive gregariousness of the wolf and the dog" or he may follow the pattern of "complex social structure of the bee and the ant, which we may call socialized gregariousness."

The present European war is not due to any necessity of contest between nations. It is a mark of the breakdown of standards or rather of the failure to realize the necessity for social ideals. It was the great merit of Germany that she saw the enormous possibilities of a conscious social order. Unfortunately, her traditions and her division into social classes led her to adopt the model of the wolf and to accept the philosophy that progress involved dominance over other types. This ideal of human society, the author thinks, must be replaced by the socialized gregariousness. Society, in other words, has become a great and new biological unit which must replace the old individualism just as the multi-celled organisms achieved a higher position than was possible to single-celled forms.